

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



### September 20 – October 3, 2015

#### Sunday, September 20

**7:00 PM Photography Program – “You’re Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...”** Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you’re attempting to capture may not be what you think it is. Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

#### Tuesday, September 22

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Fire: Friend or Foe?”** For years fire suppression was park policy, but now the National Parks start their own fires. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at wildfire in Big Bend. Meet at the Chisos Basin trailhead. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

#### Thursday, September 24

**10:00 AM Program – “Bear Country”** Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 minutes.

#### Friday, September 25

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill”** The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

#### Saturday, September 26 – National Public Lands Day

**8:30 AM Volunteer Service Project – “Brush Clearing”** Interested in helping to make your National Park a better place? You can help Big Bend National Park staff to cut brush in the Chisos Basin as part of an ongoing fuel reduction project to protect facilities in the event of a wildfire. Tools, work shirts, gloves, and water will be provided. Volunteers and park staff will meet in the Chisos Basin parking lot (CCC Pavilion). Some walking required; flexible time commitment.

**10:00 AM Special Event – “Groundbreaking for Fossil Discovery Exhibit”** Join Big Bend National Park’s management and park partners for an historic groundbreaking event! Over a decade in the planning, we will ceremonially start the process of creating exhibits worthy of telling the story of Big Bend’s world class fossils. Meet at the Fossil Bone Exhibit. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

#### Friday, October 2

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill”** The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

#### Saturday, October 3

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Getting to Know the Agaves”** Big Bend is home to a variety of species in the Agave family. Found throughout the park, they have played a major role in the lives of both humans and animals. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a closer look at some of these unique plants. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 30 minutes.

**8:00 PM Evening Program – “Jet Fighters & Hang Gliders: The World of Big Bend’s Raptors”** Big Bend is home to a rich diversity of birds, including raptors. Join Ranger M. Lavender for a visual program to learn more about this unique type of bird, how to identify them in the wild, and what makes them so inspirational. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in cool air conditioned comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Consider a hike on Lost Mine Trail. The entire hike is 2.4 miles one-way with an elevation change of 1,100 feet, but walking the first mile to marker #10 leads to rewarding views.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.